Wood based Industries

3092. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received application from various wood based industries seeking permission to transfer of license and plant and machinery from other States and Union Territories to the State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, how many applications have been received so far;

(c) by when these applications are likely to be cleared; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) One application has been received from M/s Kitply Industries Ltd., seeking transfer of Licence, plant and machinery of wood based industry in Andaman & Nicobar Islands to Nagpur in Maharashtra. Simultaneously, the industry has also approached the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) through application No. 722 seeking permission for the relocation of its unit.

(c) and (d) While submitting its comments on this application, Government of Maharashtra has communicated *vide* letter dated 11.8.2006 to Central Empowered Committee (CEC) that it would not be possible at present for the state to consider the request of the applicant to shift their existing unit from Andaman & Nicobar Islands to Nagpur in Maharashtra. Permitting this relocation would amount granting of new license as this industry is presently located outside the state of Maharashtra. And the state will not favourably consider the grant of new license to wood based industries in Maharashtra till the timber availability is reassessed and it is established that surplus timber is available in the State as decided in the meeting of CEC on 20.6.2006. The issue is now to be decided by CEC on the basis of State of Maharashtra's report dated 11.8.2006

Rehabilitation of Encroachers

†3093. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the proposals were sent to the Central Government for the rehabilitation of people occupying forest lands in an unauthorised manner during the last five years;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.